

Stolen cars, vans, trucks and motorcycles cost victims time and money—and increase everyone's insurance premiums. They're also often used to commit other crimes.

Don't become a victim of this serious crime.

HOW TO PREVENT THEFT OF OTHER MOTOR VEHICLES

Thefts of snowmobiles, motorcycles, boats and trail-bikes are also increasing. Many of the same precautions that apply to cars also apply to recreational vehicles.

Lock It

- Make sure all easy-to-carry items like motors, water skis and camping gear are locked up before leaving your vehicle.

Chain It

- Vehicles carried on trailers should be secured with a strong chain and padlock.
- When the trailer is not attached to your car, secure it with a heavy chain and lock it to a stationary object.
- Chain your motorcycle or snowmobile to a stationary object such as a lamppost or sewer grating. Even when your vehicle is in the garage, use a heavy chain padlock that resists conventional steel hacksaw blades.

BE ON THE LOOKOUT!

When buying a used car from an individual or a dealer, make sure you have the proper titles, that the VIN number is intact, and the "federal sticker" is on the inside of the driver's door. That sticker should match the VIN.

If your car is stolen, report it to the police immediately. If you are witnessing the crime happen, call 911. If you are calling to report the crime that has already happened, call (925) 931-5100. Also, report abandoned cars at (925) 931-5277 for removal.



www.PleasantonPD.org



Sign up for alerts from PPD—scan below



nixle

**For more information call the Pleasanton Police Department Crime Prevention Unit at
(925) 931-5233 or
(925) 931-5240**

Vehicle Security



Keys to Car Safety



**Pleasanton Police Department
4833 Bernal Avenue
Pleasanton, CA 94566
(925) 931-5100**

YOU CAN PREVENT CAR THEFT!

Most cars are taken by amateurs who can be stopped fairly easily. Protect your car against this type of crime by taking the following sensible precautions:

Lock Up

- An unlocked car is an open invitation to a car thief. **Lock up when you leave your car, and take the keys with you.** Do this even if you are making a quick stop at the gas station or dry cleaners.
- Never leave your car running or the keys in the ignition when you're away from it, even for "just a minute".
- Always roll up the windows and lock the car, even on a hot day, and even if it's in front of your home.
- **NEVER** leave valuables in plain view, even if your car is locked. Cell phones, laptops, packages, GPS devices and all other valuables should be removed, or at the very least locked in the trunk or out of sight.
- Carry the registration and insurance card with you. Don't leave personal identification documents in your vehicle.

Use Anti-theft Devices

- When buying a car, check the manufacturer's list of anti-theft options such as interior hood and trunk releases, locking steering columns and others.
- Consider the purchase and installation of security devices, such as:
 - Second ignition switch or "kill switch" to prevent electrical current from reaching the coil distributor.



- Fuel switch to prevent fuel from reaching the carburetor.
- Locking devices for the gas cap, batteries, wheels, decks, etc.
- An alarm to activate a siren, horn or lights—or all three—to frighten the thief away.
- Device that attached to the steering wheel or brake pedal, commonly called clubs, collars or j-bars.
- Install a GPS or tracking system such as Lo-jack.

Park Carefully

- When at home, the safest place for your vehicle is in the garage.
- Don't leave an auto in unattended public parking lots for an extended period. A car is five times more likely to be stolen from an unattended lot than from the street or attended lot.
- If possible, park your car in a lot where you don't have to leave your keys.
- Never attach a tag with your name and/or address to your key ring. If the keys are lost or stolen, the tag will lead the thief directly to your home.
- If you have to leave your keys with an attendant, leave only the ignition key.
- At night, park in well-lit areas with lots of people around (watch out for loiterers!).

Operation ID

- With an electric engraver, etch your driver's license number (preceded by the letters "CA") on stereo equipment and other valuable items.
- Record your vehicle identification number (VIN: located in the corner of the dashboard) and store it in a safe place.



What About Carjacking?

Carjacking—stealing a car by force—has captured headlines in the last few years. Statistically, your chances of being a carjacking victim are very slim, and preventive actions can reduce the risk even more.



- Park in well-lighted areas with good visibility, close to walkways, stores and people.
- Keep car and house keys on separate key chains.
- Approach your car with the key in hand. Look around before getting in.
- Be alert of your surroundings, of people approaching your vehicle.
- Keep the garage door opener in your purse or briefcase.
- When driving, keep your car doors locked at all times.
- Stick with traffic, avoid lightly traveled streets, especially after dark.
- Be especially alert at intersections, gas stations, ATMs, shopping malls, convenience and grocery stores—all are windows of opportunity for carjackers.
- When stopped in traffic, always leave enough room to make an emergency getaway.
- If someone is threatening you with a weapon, **give up the vehicle—it's not worth your life.**